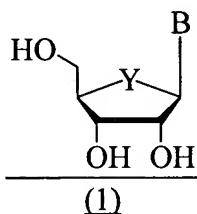


### Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the "Abstract of the Invention" with the following paragraph:

~~The present invention is an~~ An efficient synthetic route to antiviral 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-'  
didehydro-nucleosides, such as 2',3'-dideoxy and 2'- or 3'-deoxyribo-nucleoside analogs, from  
available precursors is disclosed, with the option of introducing functionality as needed,~~such as,~~  
~~the 2',3'-dideoxy and 2'- or 3'-deoxyribo-nucleoside analogs as well as additional derivatives~~  
~~obtained by subsequent functional group manipulations. Briefly In one embodiment, the present~~  
~~invention discloses a method for the preparation of  $\beta$ -D and  $\beta$ -L-2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-~~  
nucleosides is described that starting from appropriately substituted ribonucleosides in two,  
optionally three steps: Step (1) a haloacylation, such as haloacetylation, and in particular,  
bromoacetylation; Step (2) a reductive elimination; and optionally, Step (3) a deprotection.  
includes: activating a compound of structure (1)



wherein B is a pyrimidine or purine base and Y is O, S or CH<sub>2</sub> with an acyl halide of the  
formula X-C(=O)R<sup>1</sup>, X-C(=O)C(R<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub>OC(=O)R<sup>1</sup> or X-C(=O)OR<sup>1</sup> (wherein X is a halogen, and  
each R<sup>1</sup> is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkyl, aryl or phenyl); reducing the resulting  
compound with a reducing agent to form a 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-nucleoside; and  
optionally deprotecting the nucleoside. The haloacylation of the first step (1) can form the 2'-  
acyl-3'-halonucleoside, the 3'-acyl-2'-halonucleoside, or a mixture thereof.